also observed that the undertaking given by the company to pay the difference between the prices charged and those fixed by the Government into the Drug Prices Equalisation Account subsists. Details of the difference are yet to be worked out.

Indigenous production of drugs under new drug policy

1517. SHRI BHUBANESWER KALITA:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not announced the list of inputs whose custom duty will be brought down than the duty of finished bulk drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has not announced the bulk drugs to be covered under tariff mechanism to boost indigenous production while proposing new measures;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not proposed any measures for mandatory production of essential drugs; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Finance has recently exempted 36 drug intermediates which are exclusively used for production of bulk drugs from countervailing duty, thus reducing the effective rate of customs duty on these drug intermediates.

(b) The names of bulk drugs to be covered under proposed tariff mechanism can be decided only after finalisation of the list of price controlled drugs.

(c) and (d) Government's decisions are contained in the booklet entitled 'Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India' copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Drug Equalisation Fund Account

1518. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drug Equalisation Fund Account was set up to safeguard the interest of bulk drug producers and the consumers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to discontinue this account due to administrative difficulties; and

(c) what are the reasons for discontinuing the account and not removing the administrative difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) The Drug Price Equalisation Account was set up essentially to encourage domestic production of bulk drugs through a system of retention pricing. However, in actual practice its operation is giving rise to intractable administrative problems with anticipated accruals to the DPEA being thwarted by disputes and claims on the DPEA put forth promptly. It has therefore, been decided to discontinue the system of retention and pooled pricing.

Supersession of employees in Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project

1519. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Junior Operators (T|V) were appointed in the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd, in September, 1980 and have been superseded by their juniors when promotions to the next grades i.e. Grade IV (T|V) and Grade III (T|V) were made in 1982 and 1986 respectively;